

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Public Safety Committee** was held virtually on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

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**Present:** Chair Deneys, Supervisor Lund, Supervisor Kaster, Supervisor Coenen, Supervisor Schultz  
**Also Present:** Board Chair Pat Buckley, Supervisor Erickson, Supervisor Brusky, Sheriff Todd Delain, Public Safety Communications Director Cullen Peltier, Emergency Management Director Lauri Maki, Medical Examiner Director of Operations Barry Irmen, Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest, other interested parties and media.

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**I. Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deneys at 6:00 pm.

**II. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Lund to modify the agenda to take Items 16 – 21 following *Comments by the Public*. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Discussion and possible action regarding July 2020 meeting date.**

Chair Deneys informed the scheduled July meeting would fall during the week of the Fourth of July and questioned if the Committee would be able to meet on June 30, 2020 instead. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the July Public Safety Committee meeting will be rescheduled to 6:00 pm on June 30, 2020.

**IV. Approve/Modify Minutes of May 5, 2020.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Comments from the Public:** None.

*Although shown in the proper format here, Items 16 – 21 were taken at this time.*

**1. Review Minutes of:** None.

**Communications**

**2. Communication from former Supervisor Tran: Establish a master plan for the future of the downtown jail. Action at March 2020 meeting: To refer to staff for consideration of funding study monies in the 2021 budget and bring back in June.**

Director of Administration Chad Weininger said this should be referred to the Sheriff who is a constitutional officer and in charge of developing a masterplan. The initial step would be for the parties to come together to establish what they are looking for and then get feedback from the County Board. From there, a study would be included in the 5 year CIP.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to refer to staff for consideration of funding future study monies. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Late Communication from Chair Buckley re: Discussion and possible action regarding compensation for Courthouse and District Attorney Office employees for March 19, 2020 shutdown. *Action at May meeting: To hold for one month.***

Board Chair Buckley asked that this matter be held for one more month, however Supervisor Lund suggested that this be held for two months. Buckley wished to make the Committee aware that this may need to be handled sooner, depending on when COVID expenses need to be turned in. He will keep the Committee updated in this regard.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to hold for two months. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Medical Examiner**

4. **Medical Examiner's Report.**  
a. **COVID-19 Update – *Standing Item.***

Medical Examiner Director of Operations Barry Irmen informed that overall numbers are up considerably. Overall cases for 2020 are up 19% from 2019 and up 29% from 2018. Autopsies are up by 20% over 2019 and 51% over 2018. Irmen said they have seen an increase in homicides, suicides and overdoses this year and this seems to be the general trend for larger communities across the state.

With regard to COVID-19, Irmen was happy to report that none of his staff has become ill, despite being at scenes where people are COVID positive. The COVID cases in Brown County the ME's office has dealt with is fairly small. They seem to be bringing more people in for post mortem swabs due to lack of information from families and witnesses and Irmen expects that to continue to increase. Overall, the positivity rate has been fairly low.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Resolution Authorizing Entering Into a Contract Entitled: Intergovernmental Agreement Between Dane County and Brown County for Medical Examiner Services.**

Weininger informed this resolution is an extension of the current agreement with Dane County to continue to provide Brown County with ME services. This came about several years ago when the County went from a lay medical examiner to a Board-certified forensic pathologist to do the medical examinations. The Board was adamant on doing this with the long-term goal of building a medical examiner facility in the county. This facility is currently under construction and should be completed in 2021. The contract which is the subject of this resolution would be in place until 2021 and would then be renegotiated. Weininger outlined the changes in the proposed contract with the Committee and noted that there also needs to be a written agreement with the other counties that utilize services.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Public Safety Communications**

6. **2019 Year-End Budget Status Financial Report (unaudited).**

Public Safety Communications Director Cullen Peltier informed his department finished 2019 at about \$80,000 under budget. This is due to some cost saving measures along the way as well as a contract that was signed with Oneida Tribal Police for use of the radio system.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Lund to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. Budget Status Financial Report for April 2020 (unaudited).**

Peltier informed there have been some expenses during the first quarter of the year related to the COVID response, but it is anticipated those expenses will be reimbursed through the CARES Act. There have also been some cost savings due to a reduction in overtime.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. Director's Report.**

**a. COVID-19 Update – *Standing Item*.**

Peltier informed all staff was brought back together on May 27 and they are fully staffed at the center. They continue to practice social distancing and sanitizing and the use of masks is highly encouraged. They also continue to find unique ways to train new hires and they are continuing to recruit and hire. They are looking forward to moving into phase two of their reopening plan and Peltier will continue to keep the Committee updated.

Peltier noted that the cooling unit was out at the center last week for seven days. The weather outside was hot and for seven days the inside temperature was at 85 or above. The humidity was also very high. They did what they could do with fans, etc. and Peltier wanted to commend the staff on how well they handled the unpleasant circumstances. Deneys extended his appreciation and that of the Committee for the dedication of Peltier and his staff.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Emergency Management**

**9. 2019 Year-End Budget Status Financial Report (unaudited).**

Emergency Management Director Lauri Maki reported they ended 2019 under budget, mainly due to the former Director's position being vacant for several months.

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. Budget Status Financial Report for April 2020 (unaudited).**

Maki informed that so far for 2020 the department is over budget, the majority of which is related to COVID-19. Administration has created a COVID fund where all expenses are currently being attached to Emergency Management but once the event is over, those expenses will be allocated to the appropriate accounts and the Emergency Management budget will look better. Maki does anticipate being over budget at the end of the year and noted that the budget is set for a staff of two but they have been hosting approximately 20 people a day for about three months. Deneys asked that a breakdown of these expenses be provided to the Committee if it is available from Administration.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. Director's Report.**

**a. COVID-19 Update – *Standing Item*.**

Maki reported the EOC was activated on March 14 and has been running almost seven days a week ever since to support Public Health as part of COVID-19. EOC staff has assisted in the coordination and development of quarantine and isolation sites and testing and outreach, including the two sites operated with the National Guard. They have also worked on developing a finance team and have been using both the in person EOC and a virtual

EOC. Emergency Management has also established a PPE distribution system and logistics warehouse and they have also re-implemented the public information officer group which Maki tried to start at the end of last year.

On April 29 there were dual EOC activations. There was flooding at the Museum which forced evacuation of part of the Emergency Management operations back to the main EOC where the two EOCs were running concurrently; one for COVID and one for flood operations. The COVID EOC is currently operating Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Last night they activated EOC operations due to potential rioting and there were people from various law enforcement agencies and fire departments working out the EOC. Maki is trying to stay balanced and focused with his one staff member. In addition, the County is currently under a severe thunderstorm watch for tonight and they continue to keep an eye on that as well.

Maki continued that they are working on demobilizing Public Health staff out of the EOC and back to Sophie Beaumont, but that creates issues with the potential rioting downtown. Maki also gave a shout out to everyone who came in and suffered through the heat when the air conditioning was broken last week and noted that the temperature in the center was 92 degrees two days in a row. Deney noted this entire Committee is very appreciative of the work Maki and his staff is doing and asked him to pass that sentiment along.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Clerk of Courts**

**12. Clerk of Courts Report.**

**a. COVID-19 Update – *Standing Item*.**

Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest informed his office has been busy. Half his staff is working in the office and the remainder of staff has been working from home. Filings are increasing and scheduling of hearings is increasing so all staff will be returning to the office on June 8. They will maintain social distancing and continue to sanitize all commonly touched surfaces. Vander Leest wants to get the office open back up for the public as soon as possible, but there are some protective measures that need to be taken care of first and Facilities is working on those. There is a drop box available to the public to make payments and leaving filings and they will continue to have that available in the future. Vander Leest wants to ensure that opening back up to the public is done safely to ensure both his staff and the public are protected.

Vander Leest continued that there has been a decrease in collections since the COVID-19 issues started. The office is currently trending down by about \$15,000 - \$20,000 per month for the last few months compared to pre-COVID numbers. The budget may not be as strong this year as it was last year due to this. Some vacant positions have been left open in an attempt to save money, but it is likely at least one of those positions will need to be filled to keep up with workload. Jury trials will not be occurring for another two to three months because it will take some time to put measures in place to ensure that trials can be held safely.

Vander Leest concluded thanking law enforcement and his staff in what they have done to keep the courthouse safe. Everyone has done a great job.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Lund to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **District Attorney**

**13. District Attorney Report.**

**a. COVID-19 Update – *Standing Item*.**

*No report; no action taken.*

#### **Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate**

**14. Budget Status Financial Report for April 2020 (unaudited).**

*No report; no action taken.*

- 15. Director's Report.**  
**a. COVID-19 Update – *Standing Item*.**

*No report; no action taken.*

**Sheriff**

- 16. Update re: Jail Addition – *Standing Item*.**

Sheriff Todd Delain informed he has spoken with Public Works Director Paul Fontecchio and was advised by him that the jail project is moving along as anticipated. At this time they are preparing for footings to go in. Fontecchio informed Delain he hopes to have a construction schedule available for the next Public Safety meeting.

*Standing item; no action taken.*

- 17. 2019 Year-End Budget Status Financial Report (unaudited).**

Delain reported the Sheriff's Office budget ended up even at the end of 2019. Some expenses were greater than expected while others were less than expected which is typical. Overall 2019 was a good year.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Lund to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 18. Budget Status Financial Report for April 2020 (unaudited).**

Delain reported expenses for the first third of the year are at 31.1% and revenue is at 31.8%. He will continue to watch the budget closely as this has been an odd year and there may still be expenses coming up for things like the election. At this time however things are looking good.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 19. Key Factor Report through April 2020 (unaudited).**

Delain informed the daily jail population has been down intentionally and subsequently overtime has also been down. This is most directly related to shutting down the Huber center which provides the ability to reallocate those officers to other positions within the jail.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 20. Resolution Expressing Strong Support for Passage of 2019 Senate Bill 5, and 2019 Assembly Bill 5, Which Define County Jailers as Protective Occupation Participants.**

Delain strongly supports this resolution and noted that the County Board has supported similar resolutions in the past. There has been support to work with the State in getting protective status back to the correctional officers through a change in the law. Correctional officers continue to go above and beyond and perform to the highest level in difficult situations and this has not changed during the COVID pandemic. Correctional officers have had to take significant additional steps to protect themselves as well as the inmates in their care and they have been doing a magnificent job. Delain said there is inequity as relates to correctional officers at the state and county level. The state passing these bills, or something similar, is well needed and something Delain supports. He is happy to see the county is working to get the attention of our legislators to make these changes. Delain recalled that retired sheriff John Gossage spent a tremendous amount of time trying to get this passed and he has

volunteered to go to Madison to talk about the importance of this. Delain will also be speaking with legislators on this when he has more time.

Board Chair Pat Buckley informed he has spoken with the supervisor who put the previous communication in and he wanted to verify that the intent is that this resolution move forward.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Lund to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**20.1. Budget Adjustment Request (20-046): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

This budget adjustment is for the use of sales tax designated for Public Safety projects to fund the expansion of the Jail Video Surveillance capital project which was started in 2016. Additional cameras have been recommended by PREA ("Prison Rape Elimination Act") and by an insurance audit.

Delain explained that over the last four years there have been changes in some of the guidance and standards relating to the operations of correctional facilities throughout the country. This budget adjustment relates to the Prison Rape Elimination Act which is designed to provide additional safety measures and privacy to those incarcerated. The recommendation in Brown County is to continue to add cameras in various locations throughout the jail and this is supported by the County's insurance company. This is something that is not a want, but more of a need and Delain strongly supports this and appreciates the county administration working with the Sheriff's Department to reallocate funds to get this project completed.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**21. Sheriff's Report.**

**a. COVID-19 Update – *Standing Item.***

Delain informed the Sheriff's Department does not currently have any employees out because of COVID-19 and there have not been any new positive cases in the jail. There were two previous cases in the jail, but those individuals have been placed back out into the community on the electronic monitoring program. Screening processes were put in place in March and have been very successful in keeping anyone with symptoms away from the general population for 14 days which has been positive. Overall the staff and the jail is healthy.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to receive and place on file Item 21a. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Delain continued by talking about the records management system which has been discussed in the past. At the request of the previous Public Safety Committee they have been working on the records management system as well as inequities related to other software and connections to the county system, most particularly net motion licenses, TS support and interface connection related to the courts. Delain informed the Administration Committee and Corporation Counsel have prepared a contract in this regard. He has sent letters to the impacted Police and Fire Departments which include De Pere, Hobart/Lawrence, Pulaski, Wrightstown and UWGB Police. Pulaski and Wrightstown do not currently utilize the system, however, Delain sent letters to them in case a new records management system is utilized as there would be cost savings to those entities if they were interested in joining a new system. Fire Departments are involved because of the net motion licenses which is what allows them to connect to the CAD.

Delain recalled he was instructed to look into the history of the inequities and those have been identified. We are now at the point of moving forward with a contract to make things equal across the board. At this time Delain's recommendation is to continue to move forward with the contracts and then identify which agencies are interested in continuing to use the county's program. Delain would like to move away from the current records management system and move towards a new system and stressed that he will be making the decision based on

what has been talked about for a long time. Most importantly is to be able to share information with all law enforcement agencies and Delain also said the DA's office is very supportive of this as it would allow them to get reports consistently through one system. This would also save money for the county because the more interfaces we have, the more money we pay to make the connections to the records management systems.

The next step in the equity process would be to finalize contract negotiations with the City of Green Bay and then prepare contracts for any municipality who would join the records management system. Each Department would make their own decision, but Delain would like to offer the cost sharing method to them. Delain would like this put on next month's agenda to potentially approve any contracts that come forward from discussions with the municipalities.

Supervisor Schultz commented that prior to the Pro Phoenix system being implemented, two former Captains were sent to study the GERB system and they highly recommended it as a county-wide system.

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Other**

**22. Audit of bills.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to approve the audit of the bills. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**23. Such other matters as authorized by law.**

Kaster acknowledged the challenging times for law enforcement and asked everyone to keep them in their prayers. Schultz added his compliments to the Sheriff's training section and prior Boards for ensuring deputies are well trained and equipped to properly handle the current circumstances. Deney's concurred with the comments of Kaster and Schultz.

**24. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Administrative Specialist